

REMARKS

The Examiner has subjected this application to restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner has formed two groups of claims, Group I directed to claims 1-26 and 35-42 and drawn to a method, and Group II directed to claims 27-34 and drawn to a product. The Examiner has asserted that these groups of claims represent distinct inventions and may properly be restricted. Applicants hereby confirm their provisional election of Group II, directed to claims 27-34 for examination. However, the restriction requirement has been traversed and request is hereby made for reconsideration. It should be noted, the Commissioner may statutorily require the election of inventions "If two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application." In the instant case the Examiner is alleging that the inventions of groups one and two are distinct, although absolutely no showing of such distinctness has been made.

The Examiner's attention is directed to 37 C.F.R. 1.141(b) where allegedly different classes of inventions may be included and examined in a single application provided they are so linked as to form a single inventive concept. Please note that claims for a product are specifically authorized for examination together with claims for one process specially adapted for the use of that product. This is exactly the type of case for which the rule was promulgated, i.e., to avoid burdensome and unnecessary restrictions. It is also asserted that the requirement to restrict the present application would be an unnecessary burden upon the Applicants and the Examiner's failure to follow the mandates of the statute and regulation would be a denial of due process.

In addition, the same examiner has already examined all of the withdrawn claims in the corresponding PCT application, namely PCT/US02/07430, and therefore

there would be no additional burden for the rejoining of the withdrawn claims. For these reasons it is respectfully urged that the restriction requirement should be rescinded and that the method claims should be rejoined.

Claims 27-8, 31-34 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claim 27 has been amended as suggested by the examiner and therefore if is submitted that this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 21, 26, 33 and 36 have been amended to conform the claims. "Polymeric" has been changed to "polyimide" throughout the claims. Claims 1, 3, 23, 25 and 35 remove the word "second".

Additionally, the claims have been amended to require that the a first polyimide film be "laminated" to the first etched surface of the polyimide substrate, rather than just being "attached". Please notice that this is not merely a process limitation, but a structural limitation.

The examiner has rejected claims 27, 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Takeuchi et al. Applicants respectfully assert that this ground of rejection is not well taken.

The invention relates to a flexible printed circuit board having improved interlayer adhesion and excellent thermal performance. The claims have been amended to claims a printed circuit board composite which includes a *polyimide* substrate having a first etched surface, a first *polyimide* film laminated to the first etched surface, and a layer of a metal foil attached to an opposite side of the first polymeric film, and wherein the resulting printed circuit board has a peel strength of at least 4 lbs./inch.

Takeuchi et al. teaches a polyimide substrate which is subjected to a surface modification treatment; a *siloxane-modified polyamideimide resin* adhesive layer attached to the polyimide substrate; and a copper foil attached to the other side of the adhesive layer.

Applicants point out that the adhesive layer of Takeuchi et al. is no longer any form of polyimide. This is not a situation where a valid argument could be made that a *polyamideimide comprises a polyimide* as the examiner has done. Under no circumstances does Takeuchi et al. ever apply a polyamideimide layer to their polyimide substrate. They solely apply a *siloxane-modified polyamideimide resin composition* to their polyimide substrate. Once they have reacted their polyamideimide intermediate with a siloxane, the reaction product no longer has any imide component. Therefore, Takeuchi et al. does not apply a polyimide, but rather it comprises a *siloxane-modified polyamideimide resin composition, the result of which is no longer a polyimide*. It is not a polyimide layer as is required by the amended claims.

It is urged that Takeuchi et al. teaches the formation of a different end product from the present invention, using different components than are taught by the present invention.

Thus, it is submitted that the present invention is patentably distinct from Takeuchi et al. It is therefore respectfully urged that the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 27-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Suzuki et al. Applicants respectfully assert that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. The claims have been amended to require that a first polyimide film has been laminated to the first etched surface of the substrate. This is very different from the structure of Suzuki, et al which requires that their polyimide film be coated onto their adhesion promoted polyimide substrate. This

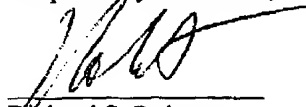
is not merely a process limitation, but rather a structural limitation. Applicants overall process does coat their polyimide onto a metal foil, but the attachment of their polyimide film onto their adhesion promoted polyimide substrate is by lamination and not by a liquid coating application. It is therefore submitted that these features of the present invention renders the invention patentably distinct from Suzuki et al. It is therefore respectfully urged that the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection has been overcome.

Applicants clarify that in claim 44, the polyimide is in the solvent solution rather than a polyimide precursor such as polyamic acid.

The examiner is reminded that an Information Disclosure Statement was mailed by Applicants on September 2, 2003 to complete this record. The only prior art cited was a reference

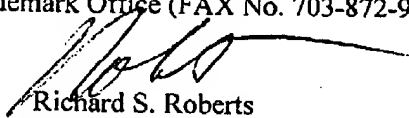
The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. 703-872-9311) on September 25, 2003.


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